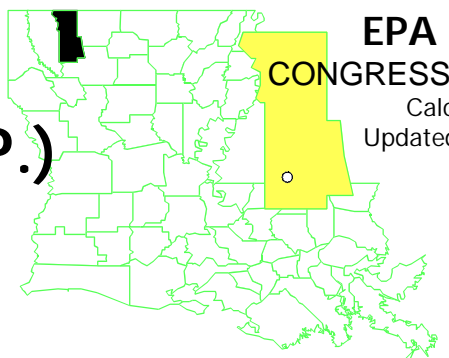


# BAYOU D'INDE (OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORP.)

LOUISIANA

EPA ID# LA0213820533



EPA REGION 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7

Calcasieu Parish

Updated May 14, 1997

## Site Description

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- Location:**
- The Occidental Chemical Corporation (Lake Charles Plant) is located west of Louisiana Highway 108 and south of Bayou d'Inde in Sulphur, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. The site is about 5 miles southwest of Lake Charles, which is in southwest Louisiana.
- Population:**
- 56,120 in Lake Charles, Louisiana.
  - 4,988 in Westlake, Louisiana.
- Setting:**
- Bayou d'Inde is an estuary west of Lake Charles, LA that is part of the Calcasieu River Estuarine System.

## Wastes and Volumes

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Principal Pollutants:

- PCBs, phenanthrene, xylene, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, mercury, and chromium.

## Site Assessment and Ranking

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### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: None  
Proposed Date: None  
(Site has not been proposed)

## Site Map and Diagram

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**Not Available At This Time**

## The Remediation Process

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### Site History:

- The Bayou d'Inde area is an industrialized area where several petrochemical and agrochemical plants manufacture and process diverse products such as petroleum, sodium hydroxide, chlorine, teflon, butadiene, synthetic rubber, trichloroethylene, and perchloroethylene.
- A preliminary assessment (PA) report was completed by EPA on September 11, 1987.
- The site inspection (SI) was completed by EPA on January 18, 1988.
- The expanded site inspection (ESI) report was completed by EPA on September 28, 1993. The results of the ESI sampling documented an observed release of both organic and inorganic compounds to the surface water.
- The NPL Hazard Ranking System (HRS) package for the site on February 3, 1995. The EPA is awaiting for a letter from the Governor of Louisiana before taking further action to list the site on the NPL.
- The site is currently being evaluated by a Governor-appointed task force.
- EPA staff, LDEQ, NOAA, US Army Corps of Engineers, and US Fish and Wildlife Service formed a workgroup and held a meeting on March 23, 1995, to discuss the site. It was decided that the dredging should move forward, but that the dredge spoil should be adequately characterized.
- EPA and the work group established data quality objectives for the EPA contractor sampling event and provided comments on the contractor's sampling and analysis plan in July 1995.
- One of the larger and more involved PRPs at the site, Pittsburgh Paint & Glass (PPG) has initiated an ecological risk assessment for Bayou d'Inde under the RCRA Corrective Action. The Phase I of ecological risk assessment is scheduled to be completed in 1997 and Phase II is scheduled to be completed in 1999.
- The EPA contractor's final cost proposal was approved on January 11, 1996.

### Health Considerations:

- Human ingestion of bioaccumulated contaminants in marine life from fish and shellfish harvesting in the bayou and connected waterways by local and commercial fishermen.

### Other Environmental Risks:

- The Calcasieu River, Lake Charles, and Prien Lake are estuarine in nature and have been designated for the usage of primary and secondary contact recreational use and the propagation of fish and wildlife.
- There are several delineated wetlands that are considered sensitive environments along Bayou d'Inde, PPG Canal, and the Calcasieu River.
- Recreational fishing occurs in Bayou d'Inde and the PPG Canal as well as recreational and commercial fishing occurs in the Calcasieu Ship Channel, Calcasieu River, and Prien Lake.

## Record of Decision

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No Record of Decision has been signed for this pre-NPL site

## Community Involvement

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- Community Involvement activities are just beginning at this site, and are being coordinated with the State of Louisiana.

## Technical Assistance Grant

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- A Technical Assistance Grant will be available for this site only if it is proposed to the National Priorities List.

## Fiscal and Program Management

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- **Remedial Project Manager:** Stacey Bennett(EPA), 214-665-6729, Mail Code: 6SF-LP
- **State Contact:** Glenn Miller (LDEQ), 504-765-0487
- **Community Involvement Coordinator:** Verne McFarland(EPA) 214-665-6617, Mail Code 6SF-PO
- **Attorney:** Paul Wendell (EPA) 214-665-2136, Mail Code 6SF-DL
- **State Coordinator:** Marilyn Owen (EPA) 214-665-8508, Mail Code: 6SF-LL
- **Prime Contractor:** Fluor Daniel

### Cost Recovery:

- PRPs Identified: 38
- Viable PRPs: 20
- The EPA Cost Recovery contractor has completed facility profile sheets on the 10 major PRPs, which include information on violations pertaining to NPDES, RCRA and other program media.

## Present Status and Issues

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- EPA staff met with the Bayou d'Inde workgroup in Lake Charles on December 7, 1995, to discuss the final revisions to the sampling and analysis plan.
- EPA staff met with Dale Bayard, police juror, on December 7, 1995 to discuss the projected date for sampling. The Mr. Bayard indicated they will await results of EPA's sampling so they can receive approval to dredge the area from the Corps of Engineers. The Calcasieu Parish has plans to dredge the entire bayou in stages in order to get more industries to locate along the bayou.

- The sampling of the area to be dredged was scheduled for the month of December 1995. The sampling was delayed due to the government shut-down. The contractor has estimated that it will take at least 6 weeks to sample and analyze the samples. Until a continuing resolution with a time period of 6 weeks is granted, the contractor will not be able to sample due to the threat of a shut-down.
- The EPA contractor was able to initiate and complete sampling efforts during the month of February (1996). Data is currently being QA/QC and a draft report of the findings is expected in July.
- The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) completed a draft report on September 1996 titled, "Contamination Extent Report and Preliminary Injury Evaluation for the Calcasieu Estuary." This draft report is undergoing public comments.
- The EPA contractor completed a draft report based on the 1996 bayou sampling titled, "Findings Report for the Focused Site Assessment" on October 1996. This draft report is currently undergoing internal EPA, NOAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and LDEQ review.
- The EPA, LDEQ, NOAA, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife met on November 15, 1996 in Lafayette to discuss the comments on the EPA draft final report. In addition, the group discuss the authority of each program. This group plans to meet in early 1997 to discuss potential solutions based on the data in the EPA and NOAA reports.
- PPG Industries met with EPA on March 5, 1997 to discuss the finding in the EPA draft final report. PPG Industries indicated that their ongoing RFI and risk assessments for the off-site areas as part of their HSWA RCRA permit, includes addressing the issues of lower Bayou d'Inde. In addition, PPG stated that they polled surrounding PRPs and that they did not express an interest in forming a group to address the issues in the Bayou.
- EPA met with LDEQ staff to reach consensus on the results of the technical data from two EPA reports (EPA expanded site assessment of 1993 and the EPA draft focused site assessment report of 1996). EPA presented 6 graphs and 1 map outlining the sampling locations and results. The 6 graphs represent the six contaminants of concern, which are hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorobudiene, copper, lead, mercury, and PCBs. In addition, EPA presented options to the State on how to address the concerns based on the data in the EPA reports. The State indicated that they will review the options and information presented during the meeting and make recommendations to EPA. A request was made by the LDEQ attorney that EPA present the benefits of the NPL.

## Benefits

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- Addressing Bayou d'Inde contamination will ensure protection of the sensitive estuarine environment, as well as protect the health of people who harvest marine life in the area.